

AAUW Poughkeepsie Branch, Inc.
Board meeting minutes
Thursday, April 4, 2014

Members present: Susie Blecker, Mary Lou Davis, Jackie Goffe-McNish, Betty Harrel, Eileen Hayden, Cathy Kinn, Margaret Nijhuis, Kris Puzza, Linda Roberts, Kay Saderholm, and Barbara VanItallie. Guests present: Kathy Friedman and Diane Jablonski.

The meeting was called to order by Jackie Goffe-McNish, president, at 7:08 pm. It was held at her home.

The agenda was adjusted to remove discussions on membership retention and bylaws changes.

Minutes: The minutes of March 6, 2014 meeting were approved as amended.

Chair's Remarks – Jackie Goffe-McNish A list of those attending convention as branch delegates is needed. At this time it includes Lula Allen, Susie Blecker, Maureen Crush, Geeta Desai, Jackie Goffe-McNish, Doris Kelly, Kay Saderholm and Barbara VanItallie. Others will be attending as state delegates. Shelby Outwater and Jackie Goffe McNish were judges at the Dutchess Community College Science Fair and gave awards and gifts for a social science and hard science. Since the state awards application was received so late, several members will work with Jackie to complete parts of it and submit it beyond the application deadline.

Old Business:

Treasurer's Report- Barbara VanItallie: Our bank balance is \$38,968.86. There is \$963.17 left to be allocated from previous fundraisers. We gave \$600 to Dutchess Community College toward our two scholarships. Most of our income will be received during the next two months. A budget for 2014-2015 was presented. It is based on past experience and input from members. The budget was approved as presented. All initiative chairs must submit budget requests by May 15 to be considered by the board.

Omega Institute – Barbara VanItallie. Currently there are 17 or 18 attending. Each person has to make her own room reservation. Barbara will take part in the institute conference call on Monday. We are required to take part in an opening and closing meeting and can choose to take part in other planned activities.

New Business:

Sound system sale: Mary Coiteux has the old sound system. A motion was made and approved to sell the system.

Interest Group Coordinator training: The training had been requested by Maria DeWald as part of the retreat.

Annual meeting – Jackie Goffe-McNish: The dinner will be held at Christo's on Tuesday, May 6th with cocktail hour at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30. The theme of "Music as the Voice of the People" was approved. If Christo's kept the price the same, the cost will again be \$40. Margaret Nijhuis volunteered to take registrations. Suggestions for musicians were Rachel Mondanaro (opera) and Rich Keyes (Hudson Valley folk). Others are Ciesta Quinn (gospel) and Jackie Goffe-McNish (Jamaican folk). Mary Lou Davis will do the installation of officers. Centerpieces will be old sheet music and tapes, with materials from Kay Saderholm and Diane Jablonski.

Fundraising survey – Margaret Nijhuis: Current attendance is 110, which is low for a branch our size. Margaret developed a survey, to be distributed by email after the tea, on issues related to fundraising and whether to continue having the tea. Possible issues include the cost, having it too early and at the beginning of the month, the length of the event, and that the "shelf life" of many events is 3-5 years.

Healthcare Initiative funding request: Previously the board had allocated \$1,000 to the project and a request was made for an additional \$670 to cover the cost of transportation for clients, snacks, art supplies, and possible rental costs. It was decided to remain with the current allocation for the rest of the year, since they have \$530 left, and recommend that coordinators apply by May 15th for funding for next year.

Open Forum:

Kris Puzza – The Liberty Partnership program had been projected to take place this spring, but it will probably not take place until fall 2014. Current funds will carry over until next year and will be adequate to fulfill needs.

Mary Lou Davis – Nominating committee: A request was made to have three members serve longer than stipulated in the Working Rules. A motion was made to appoint Margaret Nijhuis as newsletter editor, Eileen Hayden as historian and Mary King as webmaster. The motion was approved.

Jackie Goffe-McNish – Omega Institute retreat: Suggestions were made for workshops/discussions at the retreat. Jackie will put together a draft and request input. Topics include membership retention and revitalization (with an outside consultant), communication including more personal contact, training model, programming, parliamentary procedure including running meetings and creating committees, 501.c.3 guidelines, bylaws, working rules, marketing our branch, and spirit building (Kim Pollard, state organizer). Some may be whole group discussions and some may be concurrent work sessions.

Announcements:

Leading to Reading – Betty Harrel: A donation was received from the Arlington Teachers' Association. A presentation at the Poughkeepsie Rotary seemed to be well received.

NCCWSL – Betty Harrel: Laureen Scianimanico from SUNY New Paltz was selected for our scholarship. In addition, money was sent to national to fund another student's conference registration. The question was raised about lack of board approval for sending the money to national, which should be done in the future.

Jackie was thanked for her continued hospitality in hosting the board meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Harrel

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Secretary